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Russian Ideals.

As Seen by Mr. Beveridge and as Illustrated in a British Blue Book.

In his valuable book, "The Russian Advance," the junior Senator from Indiana draws a beautiful picture of the "depth and breadth of religious life in Russia—as pure and lofty as the world has seen since the Master lived and taught." And Mr. Beveridge adds: "You may try to reason yourself out of it; you may debate with this one and that one, but you will come into possession of an internal and personal knowledge of that subject which no debating or arguing or reasoning can shake, much less overthrow. Indeed, all the writers who have with intelligent and sympathetic insight looked into Russian character have admitted in the last analysis that it is saturated with a pure religion and uplifted by a sincere faith."

We are glad to know this, since, like the canny Scot, we were disposed to "hate our doots about it." But we shall not debate, argue, or reason about it. Much less shall we attempt to reason ourselves out of it. And for similar reasons shall we refrain from following Mr. Beveridge into the unprofitable field of discussion touching the orthodoxy of the Greek Church, firmly believing—wasn't it Archbishop French who said it?—that orthodoxy is one's own doxy, while heterodoxy is the other fellow's doxy. Let us concede, then, what Senator Beveridge says is the belief of every Russian, that "the Christian faith is the all-conquering light and the Greek Orthodox Church the only true bearer of that sacred torch;" also that "holy Russia looks to the regeneration of the world as one of her great, if, indeed, not her greatest, historic mission."

We concede all this, we say. And yet it is difficult sometimes to believe it. The ideal is such a lofty one and the goal seems such a distance off. Yet, when Senator Beveridge penned this glowing tribute to the Russian character, "saturated," as he says it is, "with a pure religion," he could not have read the parliamentary blue book published in London last week, which contains the correspondence between the British and the Russian governments regarding the Russian occupation of Manchuria and Niu-shwang.

The publication in question covers a period of three and a half years, from July, 1900, till the end of last January. A perusal of it shows that again and again Count Lamsdorff is questioned by the different ambassadors as to some acts of his agents in China or Korea, and he gives satisfactory explanations or denials, as the case may be. A few pages further on one gets reports from the spot which show that the explanations are erroneous and the denials untrue. Not the least assuring feature of the St. Petersburg declarations and explanations is that their untruth is always ascertained at once. Thus Count Lamsdorff is indignant at the suggestion made by Ambassador McCormick that the Russian minister in Peking was opposing the opening of Mukden and Antung, and he states, truly enough, that Russia's interest in her railway is all in favor of foreign trade. Mr. McCormick almost apologized for the suggestion. We can almost see that astute diplomat retire in confusion, not daring to call the bluff of a statesman "saturated with a pure religion." And, of course, before he had time, figuratively speaking, to doff the "glad rags" in which he had appeared before the "saturated one," the British, American, and Japanese governments had all learned from their agents that the Russian minister was pressing the Chinese not to open those very ports.

The Christian religion, we take it, is based in a measure on the Golden Rule and the Sermon on the Mount. If it has ever countenanced lying we are not aware of it. But we may be mistaken about that. And in the meantime we place on record, side by side, Mr. Beveridge's truly eloquent interpretation of Russian aims and ideals and the acts and utterances of the foreign office at St. Petersburg.

Perhaps he can reconcile them. They may be "as pure and lofty as the world has seen since the Master lived and taught," but, we repeat, "we hate our doots about it."

A Narrow Escape.

Authors of Fictitious Requisitions and False Vouchers.

The sentence of Machen and his associates must have made cold shivers run down the spines of those who concocted the fictitious requisition and false voucher by which \$600 was surreptitiously taken from school funds.

As The Times set forth, the transaction was a crime, under Section 5438 of the Revised Statutes was punishable by imprisonment "at hard labor for not less than one nor more than five years," or a fine "of not less than one thousand nor more than five thousand dollars."

The Times further pointed out upon the discovery of the crime that the statute of limitations would bar trial in about three weeks. By some one's neglect in the District government no steps were taken to institute criminal proceedings until prosecution under United States law was barred. Later, civil proceedings were instituted against the least guilty one, while the school officials involved were allowed to go free. Thus far, their only punishment has been the chill they must have suffered upon hearing the Machen verdict, and reflecting what might have been in their cases had criminal proceedings been promptly begun.

A Defect in Vision?

Senator Fairbanks' Plan to Destroy a Historic Square.

It puzzles everybody to understand why Senators who pass and repass daily through Pennsylvania Avenue, and in front of the slums which face the Avenue on the south, should, when seeking ground for new Government buildings, fix their gaze only on distant squares which are already an ornament to the Capital and of the greatest historic interest.

Is it not possible that the defect in vision which comes with age may explain it? As the eye flattens near-by objects grow dim, and only distant objects are clearly defined. And so the Senatorial vision, which is blurred as it rests on the slums which border beautiful grounds, and the poverty-stricken piles which line the south side of what might be one of the grandest avenues in the world, only clearly distinguishes objects at the distance of Lafayette Square.

If a beginning is made by demolishing one of the best built squares in the city, while the worst, which are in every sense available for public use, are allowed to continue to disgrace the Capitol grounds and the city's finest avenues, how long will it be before the historic St. John's will be sacrificed, or the beautiful Riggs Bank demolished?

Senator Fairbanks' intense interest in this destruction of historic houses north of the War Department is difficult to understand. It has been suggested that it originates in the desire of the Daughters of the American Revolution to have as many public buildings as possible established near the site of the projected Continental Hall. It is, of course, a fine thing to please the Daughters. Many sacrifices might be justified to keep them at peace. But a society which is largely devoted to preserving historic spots should warmly oppose tearing down the houses which Senator Fairbanks seems determined to destroy.

Japan in Manchuria.

Announcement Made by the Japanese Legation at Berlin.

Since the beginning of the war in the East many observers of the course of events have wondered what Japan would do with Manchuria, supposing she should force Russia out of that coveted territory. The Japanese legation at Berlin now makes a definite announcement on the subject. It is that if Japan wins the war she will not annex Manchuria, but allow it to remain Chinese territory, and that she will recognize Russia's railroad interests and permit the retention of Russian military guards over the lines. Great Britain last November assured Russia that she recognized the Russian as the predominance in Manchuria, and did not intend to interfere with her control of the Manchurian railway system. Japan shows the intention of standing by this assurance, war or no war, and it is likely to win her favor in the eyes of other countries. The fact that this announcement was made in Berlin instead of somewhere else may be a mere happening, or it may be intended adroitly to counteract the disposition to favor Russia which seems evident in Germany, and which is undoubtedly due to commercial rather

than sentimental reasons. At any rate it is a wise announcement.

This, of course, is at present all in the air. But nothing is more certain than that Russia cannot hold Manchuria unless she wins this war, and that, if she gives it up, it will either belong to China, with Japan standing guard, or become Japanese territory. Japan has adopted the wiser course.

Another thing is practically assured. If Russia has to get out of Manchuria she will not get out again without a fight. Not only will Japan resent any such attempt and be ready to defend her position by military force, but a diplomatic coup, such as that by which Russia came in in the first place, could not hereafter be effected. Too much suspicion has been aroused by the course which Russia is proved to have pursued in her "temporary" occupation of that province. Everywhere she has been silently pouring in immigrants—immigrants with wives and children, peasants accustomed to agricultural work. Everywhere she has made preparations apparently for a permanent occupation of the territory, not a mere temporary guarding of railway lines. The light of publicity will be turned on the province too easily to allow her to do anything of the sort after this. The idea of Japan apparently is to win the good will of China by conceding that Manchuria is Chinese territory but to hold herself ready to do what China cannot—defend it against outside aggression. In this, as in many other things since the war began, there is evidence that the Japanese diplomat has his head clear and ready for action, as the Japanese admiral has his ships.

King Edward, on being informed of the condition of "The King's Slums" in the neighborhood of Richmond, immediately began housecleaning. Soon he will be in a position to criticize the way in which those things are done in the capital city of an effete republic.

Machen to the Great God Grift: "I regret to report—"

Some men will never be satisfied until there is a law to make women in street cars say thank you when they get a seat.

Yale is said to have a machine by which the operations of the human brain can be observed. This ought to strike terror to the souls of the students whose brains never work at all.

The Japanese officials engaged in the sinking of the ships are so grieved over the partial failure of their plans that they have shaved their heads. That may prove to be all the harder if the Russians ever come to close quarters.

If all the language which has probably been used on the Yellow Sea had had its effect the waters would be too hot to hold anybody.

With Mr. Howells beaming on the American drama, and Mr. Winter sneering on it, the theatrical syndicate may well be puzzled to know what sort of weather it has struck.

Dowie has been mobbed in Australia, and driven away from the best hotel. The prophet ought to be singing "Home, Sweet Home," at his meetings in these days.

It is now said that the Ethiopian is a Semite of brown skin and Arabian type. If science cannot change the skin of that Ethiopian, it certainly can do something for his reputation.

Some tender-hearted person asks if the Japanese object to being called "Japs." Whether they do or not, the war poet is not going to give up so convenient a rhyme.

Senator Platt is said to have yielded to Odell his scepter as a boss; but that scepter has seldom been relinquished without a string tied to the handle.

Golf is said to be a cure for most diseases, but the person afflicted with some sort of disease will prefer the ill he has to golf.

It has been found that the mockingbird is the proper enemy of the boll weevil. If he is not still singing where the weeping-willow waves he is on some woman's hat. Form an Audubon Society in the South.

Patti is said to have been afraid that the mice in Chicago hotels would injure her voice, and it does not seem to have been a case in which mouse-traps would work.

MODERN WAR BALLAD.

A soldier who lived at Irkutsk
Was fat, and a coward to boot.
When he went out to fight,
At the first bloody sight
He'd hunt for a good chance to scoot.

A volunteer down at Tientsin
Was considered a fine finker.
He was seven feet tall,
And to those who would fall
He'd remark, "Why, this march is pl. piker."

A patriot living at Omak
Started out with the army to romak;
But he frosted his feet,
And was heard to repeat,
"Gee whizaki, I wish I was homsk."

A soldier of Tsaringsbentsk
Stripped his mess of their very last cent,
Till to his great regret
'Gainst four aces he bet,
Which left him financially bent.

A private who hailed from Nertsinsk
Became so exceedingly thin-skink
That while cleaning his gun
When the day's fight was done
He looked down the bore and fell in skink.
—Council Bluffs Nonpareil.

THE PERSONAL SIDE

"THE GENERAL STAFF."

"I have some papers here for the general staff," a messenger at the War Department announced, and he handed a large bundle of documents to another messenger in the corridor where the offices of the chief of staff and his assistants are located.

"That's that you said," "I have some papers for the general staff," the messenger repeated, laying special emphasis on the broad English pronunciation of "staff."

"Well that kind of talk sounds good, but it don't go around here unless a man's got shoulder straps or money to go with it," the second messenger retorted. "Anything less than a second lieutenant 's to come at us with just plain 'staff' unless he shows evidences of a bank account."

FORTUNE IN BOOTS.

"The case of the 'rubber boots man' in Chicago has been the subject of much remarkable talk ever came to my notice," said Mr. Weller, of the Associated Charities, recently. "It occurred a number of years ago when I was connected with the Associated Charities of Chicago. One day a young man of neat appearance came to the office of the association called at the office of the association in search of assistance. He said he had a large family to support, and was in great need of help. He also said, however, that he could obtain employment as a factory at good wages, but had no money to buy a pair of rubber boots which were necessary in order to work in the vats."

"After telling me this story, he asked for sufficient money to procure the boots," explained to him that the association never carried out such a plan, first making an investigation, and told him that if he would call the following day I could perhaps grant his request. In the meantime I made an investigation and found that he did live at the address he gave, and was the father of a large family. Inquiry developed that the family was apparently respectable. There was every reason why his story should be believed, and so we gave him the boots.

It was not long after this that I learned that a similar request for boots had been made of several clergymen in the city. My suspicions were aroused, and I decided to ascertain if the various appeals were from the same person. Before I had completed the investigation I learned that the fellow who had given the fellow money for the boots. He had told the same story to each.

"How many more persons in the city had been victimized by him there was no way of telling, but we afterward learned that he had supported himself and family for some time by getting money in this fraudulent manner. We had him arrested, and after a great deal of trouble he was sent to the house of correction for a year."

JAP AND RUSSIAN MEET.

The navies of Russia and Japan met on the streets of Washington the other day. There was no opinion belting, however, and a clash was averted by a clever bit of maneuvering on the part of the wily Jap. The two navies were represented in the persons of Commander Takeshita, naval attaché of the Russian embassy, and Commander Utsunomiya, naval attaché of the Japanese embassy. The Russian Takeda of the Island Kingdom.

Commander Takeshita is a friend of Admiral Utsunomiya, the Japanese naval commander, and he has been longing to get to the front to join his countrymen. The Russian officer is likewise anxious to do a bit of fighting for his country. Of course, under the circumstances, the relations of the two sailors must necessarily be somewhat strained. For that reason an interested group of people on Connecticut Avenue last Sunday watched the meetings.

The men are of strikingly opposite types. Commander Takeshita is but little over five feet, but is extremely neat and erect. The Russian has the whiskers of a South Sea whaler, and is big and broad shouldered and of a distinctly sailor type.

Commander Boutakoff rounded the corner of the street and Avenue with long swinging strides. The Jap was within two feet of him, coming across his bows, as it were. A quick sidestep on the part of the Jap and he had safely escaped without coming face to face. Commander Boutakoff, however, did not seem to mind that, so did the Jap, but he couldn't refrain a moment later from casting a look at the big broad back of his rival officer as the latter moved down the street.

READY FOR THE FIRE.

"Is not often an agent is Johnny on the spot to show the value of his wares, but that was what happened to me last Saturday," said Thomas H. Evans, a Baltimore agent for a fire extinguisher. "I was on my way to see a prospective customer and dropped into a small hotel in Baltimore to get a glass of beer. While I was there an excited woman rushed downstairs and yelled that the place was on fire. I happened to have a can of my stuff with me, and getting it, I went downstairs, ran up to the fire. A little room on the third floor was full of smoke and blaze from an oil stove that had caught fire and the house was in great danger."

"Persistent use of my extinguisher put out the fire, and when the engines arrived they had nothing to do. Result, an order to equip the hotel, and many testimonials, but chances like that don't come often."

PUBLIC LANDS MAY BE SOLD AT AUCTION

It is probable that at the next opening of public lands, which will take place in a few months, they will be disposed of at auction. President Roosevelt is of the opinion that this method will be to the interest of the Government, and he is considering the issuing of a proclamation to that effect.

The lands to be opened include twelve townships of the Red Lake Indian Reservation in northwestern Minnesota, and part of the Rosebud Reservation in Gregory county, South Dakota, comprising, in all, about 416,000 acres.

PRESIDENT CONDOLES WITH PRINCE HENRY

President Roosevelt cabled condolences to Prince and Princess Henry of Germany, on the death of their son, whose funeral took place yesterday at Kiel. Emperor William was present. Lieutenant Commander Templin M. Potts, the United States naval attaché at Berlin, attended the funeral.

IN THE CIRCLE OF SOCIETY

Dinners, Parties, and Gossip of Washington and Palm Beach.

Former Secretary Root Recipient of Attention in the South.

Former Secretary of War Elihu Root, who has recently joined his family at Palm Beach, has been the object of much attention since his arrival in the South. At a tea given in the handsome home of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Flager, yesterday afternoon, Mr. Root was a conspicuous figure, as was, also, former Secretary of the Treasury Lyman Gage, Mr. Root, Miss Root, and Frederick T. Martin, of New York, a brother of Mrs. Rochester, of this city, and a frequent visitor in Washington, were among other well-known persons present.

Mr. Root and Miss Root were also present at the dinner given by Col. J. J. Astor, at Riviera, last evening. This was the gayest affair of the Palm Beach season. The guests, fifty in number, were conducted to the island in six launches, to the accompaniment of music. Throughout the dinner and afterward the guests were entertained with a number of exceedingly novel features arranged by Colonel Astor and Frederick Martin. The evening's entertainment ended with a cake walk, in which many of the guests participated, Colonel Astor leading.

The Misses Bell will give a large informal dance at their home in Connecticut Avenue tomorrow evening.

Miss Grace Glick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Glick, jr., of Congress Heights, who was taken suddenly ill on Friday at her home, is reported as much improved.

A musicale, under the direction of Mrs. Noble Newport Potts, will be given in the reading room for the blind, in the Library of Congress, tomorrow afternoon. The program includes, in addition to Robert Cary Stearns, violinist, will be the soloists, accompanied by Mrs. Potts on the piano.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS WILL PLAY POLITICS

Must Pass Many Bills for Political Effect During Present Session Which May Be Killed in Senate.

With only three months of the long session of Congress passed, the legislators are at this early date looking forward and tentatively fixing a day for adjournment. No one in a position to express a reliable opinion believes that Congress will be in session on June 1, and there are a few who fix the termination of the present session as early as the middle of April.

The consensus of opinion is that May 15 is the nearest date to which Congress will adjourn. Even two months more would doubtless be ample sufficient to wind up business in the House, under the program which the leaders of that body have laid out, which is to do nothing much, except pass the regular supply bills. Half of these have already been disposed of, and sent over to the Senate, which body has itself acted upon some of them. The House has passed the urgent deficiency bill, the agricultural appropriation bill, the army bill, the naval bill, the fortifications bill, the legislative bill, and will either today or tomorrow pass the District of Columbia appropriation bill.

In Rapid Succession.

The end of this week will see the Indian appropriation bill out of the way, for it has already been reported and is ready to be taken up as soon as the District measure is disposed of. Then will follow the postoffice appropriation bill, and after that the sundry civil appropriation bill. These passed, there will remain to be considered none of the big supply measures except the general deficiency bill. There promises to be some little interest in the Indian bill, and it may require nearly two weeks' time to pass the postoffice bill and the sundry civil bill, but when they are sent to the Senate the routine of the House work will be over.

While the Senate is considering these bills, the House will devote its attention to several legislative measures. Chief among these will be the Gardner bill, which creates a commission to inquire into the condition of the merchant marine and means for its development; the bill combining the Indian Territory and Oklahoma and their admission as one State, after the Indian lands have been allotted under the Dawes commission; the eight-hour labor bill; the Hepburn-Doolittle bill, giving police jurisdiction to liquor shops; and the bill to amend the act relating to the parcels, and the service pension bill.

For Political Effect.

It is on the program to have all of these bills pass the House for the purpose, largely, of the political effect which they will produce, but they will not, in all probability, be acted upon by the Senate until next session, after the national election has been held. The party in power can go before the country and show that these measures, for which there is popular demand, have been passed by the House, thus showing good faith, and promise that the Senate will enact them at the short session. It is quite probable also that the Grosvenor bill, limiting the meaning of the word "corruption" and the use of its junction in certain cases may also be reported by the Committee on the Judiciary, as it is strongly urged by the labor organizations, but action upon it in the House is extremely doubtful.

If the eight-hour bill goes through the House, it will probably be the last bill in the last Congress, there will be no time wasted in its consideration, so that the session is not likely to be prolonged by the consideration of any of these bills. Political debate for campaign purposes has been lagging for some weeks, the members who have been anxious to talk to make campaign material have had their say, and are in most instances "talked out." As a matter of fact, political talk has aroused less interest this session than ever before, preceding a national campaign, and this has been conspicuously the case with the Republicans.

They are strictly adhering to the

WOMEN'S BALL AND EUCHRE

Leap Year Dance at Dewey Hotel a Merry Affair.

A leap-year ball was given at the Dewey Hotel last evening by the men who are the guests of the hostelry. It was an exceedingly merry affair. The men took part in the dance or back seats according to the caprice or pleasure of the women, who were accorded all of the privileges of the stern sex usual on such occasions. Perhaps the most unique feature of the dance was the program, which depicted a woman—young and pretty—begging a dance of a grumpy old bachelor, while Cupid, with bow and arrow cast aside, looked on in amazement.

A matinee euchre in aid of the Equal Suffrage Association will be held at "Belmont," the home of Mrs. A. L. Barber, from 2 to 5 o'clock this afternoon. Tickets, which can be secured at the door, are 50 cents each.

The patrons for this entertainment and the one following tomorrow night will be Mrs. A. L. Barber, Mrs. John R. Henderson, Mrs. Joseph R. Hawley, Mrs. Rufus Saxton, and Mrs. Stephen O. Richey.

The "Spanish minister, Senor Ojeda, whom it was feared would be detained in Spain as a member of the cabinet, has informed Senor Riano, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Spanish legation, that he will return to Washington some time in April. His family, whom it was thought would accompany him here, will remain in Madrid.

The counselor of the Austrian embassy, Baron Glikra, has returned from a week's visit to New York.

Mr. Verdy du Vernoy, of the German embassy, has joined Baron von dem Busche and his party at Palm Beach for a stay of several weeks.

Miss Rosita Calderon, second daughter of the Peruvian minister and Mrs. Calderon, is confined to the house with an attack of grip.

The Washington Dramatic Club will give a bright little comedy, entitled "Mr. Bob," at Masonic Temple this evening. The play will be under the auspices of Capital Lodge, No. 11, I. O. M., directed by H. E. Saltsman and William de Ford.

King's Levee, Lectures, And Social Appointments

At King Edward's first levee, held yesterday at noon in the throne room of St. James Palace, Mr. Choate and the staff of the United States embassy were present.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Porter, accompanied by Miss Etta Porter and Paul Porter, left Washington yesterday for a two months' trip through California.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale will deliver a lecture on "New England Ballads" at the meeting of the Unity Club tomorrow evening at Metzerott Hall. The lecture will be followed by a musical program.

The Anna Gordon Y's will give a patriotic entertainment this evening at 7:30 o'clock in honor of the soldiers, sailors, and marines at the headquarters of the W. C. T. U., 322 Sixth Street northwest.

The women of Congress at the Ebbitt House will be at home from 3 to 6 o'clock this afternoon, for the last time this season.

Senator Dryden will give a large reception this evening in honor of the Secretary of War, Mr. Taft.

Among other Washingtonians who sailed on Saturday for Naples were Mrs. Frank B. Conger and Miss Conger.

Mrs. Byron L. Clarke and Mrs. Frank H. Elmore will be at home this afternoon.

Mrs. John Dougherty, of Missouri, will not be at home today on account of illness.

"WITH MR. CLEVELAND THE COUNTRY IS SAFE"

Railway Magnate Hill Says There Would Be No Uncertainty if He Were President Again.

NEW YORK, March 1.—"With Grover Cleveland as the next Democratic nominee for President the country would certainly know what sort of a man they would have in the White House in case of his election. They would know that with him as President the interests of all would be secure."

Thus James J. Hill, the Western railway magnate, yesterday expressed his view of the growing movement to make Mr. Cleveland the next candidate of the Democrats for President.

"Mr. Cleveland has filled the office of President twice," said he. "He has been tried in many situations. They would not be electing any unknown quantity to the Presidency in choosing him."

"Would the fact that he has been so long known be helpful or not?" was asked.

"It would be distinctly favorable," was the reply. "He is known as a safe, sound statesman, under whom the interests of all would be safe and secure."

"What are the chances of his nomination in your opinion?"

"I do not pretend to know anything about that. Nominations are often manipulated, and the men who manipulate them make defeat certain at the outset. They pass over men who would be strong with the voters."

"Who is your preference for the nomination?"

"I do not care to express any preference. I hope the Democratic party will put up some good, sound man. I will be glad to support him."

STREET TO BE CLOSED.

Engineer Commissioner Biddle has granted the request of Lieut. Col. A. Miller that he be allowed to close First Street Northwest, from Detroit Street to the Soldiers Home gate. This was rendered necessary by the work on the filtration plant.